

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A locking device, comprising:

an adjustable holder provided with a recess;

a stationary contour with a contact surface;

a pin arranged movably in said recess;

5 a compression spring generating an axial spring force applied to said pin, said pin having a pin head, which projects from said recess of said holder and has a contact pair with said contact surface; and

a centering device between said pin and said holder, said centering device having at least one elastically deformable ring, which is arranged between said pin and said holder within
10 said recess, said elastically deformable ring being arranged displaceably within said recess, and said elastically deformable ring having a surface with a cross section tapering against the direction of the force of said compression spring, said surface of said elastically deformable ring being in contact with a complementary surface on said pin, wherein said ring is a slotted ring and said compression spring is in contact with said holder on the side facing away from
15 said slotted ring.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) A locking device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said, elastically deformable ring has at least one said slot, which is arranged axially or obliquely to

a longitudinal axis of said pin and/or said recess and completely or partially severs said ring.

4. (Previously Presented) A locking device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said tapering surface of said elastically deformable ring has a conical shape.

5 - 16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A locking device, comprising:

an adjustable holder having an inner surface defining a recess;

a stationary contour with a contact surface;

a pin arranged movably in said recess, said pin having a tapered pin surface;

5 a compression spring generating an axial spring force applied to said pin, said pin having a pin head, said pin head extending from said recess of said holder, said pin head engaging said contact surface; and

10 a centering device arranged between said pin and said holder, said centering device having at least one elastically deformable ring, said elastically deformable ring being arranged between said pin and said holder within said recess such that said elastically deformable ring displaceable within said recess, said elastically deformable ring having a tapered ring surface, said tapered ring surface of said elastically deformable ring being in contact with said tapered pin surface of said pin, said spring engaging said elastically deformable ring.

18. (Previously Presented) A locking device in accordance with claim 17, wherein said ring is a slotted ring and said compression spring is in contact with said holder on the side facing away from said slotted ring.

19. (Previously Presented) A locking device, comprising:

an adjustable holder having an inner surface defining a recess;

a stationary contour with a contact surface;

a pin arranged movably in said recess, said pin having a tapered pin surface;

5 a compression spring generating an axial spring force applied to said pin, said pin having a pin head, said pin head extending from said recess of said holder, said pin head engaging said contact surface; and

10 a centering device arranged between said pin and said holder, said centering device having at least one elastically deformable ring, said elastically deformable ring being arranged between said pin and said holder within said recess such that said elastically deformable ring displaceable within said recess, said elastically deformable ring having a tapered ring surface and a radially extending surface, said tapered ring surface of said elastically deformable ring being in contact with said tapered pin surface of said pin, said spring engaging said radially extending surface of said elastically deformable ring and said holder.

20. (Previously Presented) A locking device in accordance with claim 19, wherein said ring is a slotted ring and said compression spring is in contact with said holder on the side

facing away from said slotted ring.

21. (Previously Presented) A locking device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said contact surface has at least one depression.

22. (Previously Presented) A locking device in accordance with claim 17, wherein said contact surface has at least one depression.

23. (Previously Presented) A locking device in accordance with claim 19, wherein said contact surface has at least one depression.